

Chicopee Register

Police Chief William Jebb to leave post next month

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – March 26 will mark the end of an era at the Chicopee Police Department when Police Chief William Jebb will take medical leave until his retirement is made official.

After first arriving at the department in 1987, Jebb carved out an impressive military and law enforcement career that took him across the country and overseas.

A Feb. 19 press release submitted by former public information officer Michael Wilk stated that Jebb plans to spend more time with his family and “continue his medical recovery.”

Jebb is recovering from an open-heart surgery that he had on March 14, 2020. On March 12, 2020, Jebb was admitted to Wing Memorial Hospital after experiencing shortness of breath and discomfort in his chest.

Jebb was transferred to Baystate for an eight-hour surgery; doctors replaced his aortic valve, removed an aortic aneurysm and conducted bypass surgery on the main artery to his heart.

In the Feb. 19 release published by Wilk, Jebb extended his thanks to former Chicopee Mayor Richard Kos, Mayor John Vieau, the City Council, city department heads and the residents of Chicopee.



COURTESY PHOTO

Chicopee Police Chief William Jebb’s 34-year career in law enforcement will come to a close when he takes medical leave on March 26, followed by an official retirement.

“Chief Jebb would also like to thank the community for all of their support, and it

has been his honor and privilege to serve this community,” read the Feb. 19 release.

Jebb joined the Chicopee force as a patrol officer in October 1987. He sought military leave from the department in 1991, serving with the United States Air Force during Operation Desert Storm.

Upon returning home, he resumed his work with the Chicopee department. Jebb was promoted to sergeant in 1994, lieutenant in 1996, captain in 2003, deputy chief in 2009 and was appointed Chicopee’s Chief of Police in 2014.

Jebb has also worked with the Drug Enforcement Agency Task Force and the department’s Narcotics Bureau. He served as the commanding officer of the department’s Detective Bureau and Patrol Division.

Additionally, Jebb was the department’s commander of the Special Response Team and served as international affairs officer and liaison to Westover Air Base and Westover Job Corps.

As police chief, Jebb oversaw the renovation and upgrade of the main headquarters and transformation of the former health department into an advanced training center. He also established a comprehensive Field Training Officer program to better train new officers.

Jebb brought in advanced training on autism awareness, crisis intervention, peer

See **CHIEF JEBB** page 6

COMMUNITY

City Hall auditorium will reopen March 2

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – When Chicopee City Hall opened in 1871, the building’s auditorium quickly earned its status as the city’s most dynamic meeting space. During the century that followed, the site became the civic, cultural and political center of Chicopee.

Despite its tradition, the auditorium’s structural condition worsened during the final decades of the 20th century. In 2004, the space was indefinitely closed to the public and served as a storage space for 15 years.

Fortunately, the city’s Planning Department embraced the auditorium’s historic past, and a two-year renovation of the space is nearly complete. On March 2, the auditorium will host a meeting of the Chicopee City Council, and a School Committee meeting will be held there on March 3.

As part of Phase I of the City Hall Revitalization Project, the auditorium was given special attention, as contractors from D.A. Sullivan & Sons, Inc., a Northampton-based firm, led the effort to breathe life back into the space.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PLANNING DEPARTMENT.

Work on the City Hall auditorium is wrapping up. On March 2, the site will host a meeting of City Council, the first such meeting it’s hosted in over 16 years.

“With the rehabilitation project, everything from the ceiling and its support structure, plaster, stained glass windows, technology, HVAC, heating, new flooring, new furniture, historically appropriate painting, acoustic design, technology and brand new audiovisual systems will make this room function as a contemporary meeting space,”

See **AUDITORIUM** page 5

COMMUNITY

Schools see 2,800 students return to classrooms Monday



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

At Bowe School on Hampden St., students may return to in-person learning as soon as late next month or early April.

Air quality improvements are underway across the district

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee School District saw the return of 2,800 students to its classrooms this week, following a newly implemented system that will allow Chicopee students to attend classes in-person several days each week.

The hybrid in-person learning plan divides students in each of Chicopee’s 15 schools into Cohort A or B, and designations will be based on each student’s home address.

Cohort A students arrive for school each Monday and Tuesday, and students designated under Cohort B will learn in-person every Thursday and Friday. The first waves of students returned earlier this week.

“We look forward to welcoming back 2,800 students on Monday, Feb. 22,” Superintendent Lynn Clark said during the Feb. 18 School Committee meeting. “If there’s any concern with the cohort they’re in, please reach out to the individual schools. We are getting back to people with concerns and thank you for your patience with this.”

Vulnerable learners, kindergarteners, first-grade and second-grade students

See **SCHOOLS** page 6



IN THE CITY

Irish take out dinner at St. Stan’s

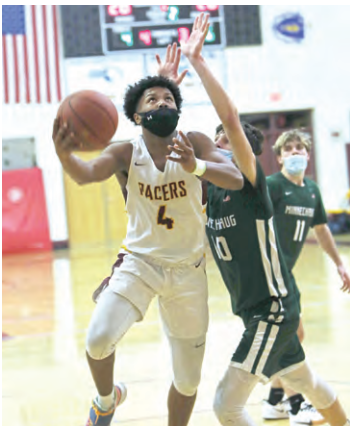
See Page 2



OPINION

In My Backyard

See Page 4



SPORTS

Pacers complete shortened season

See Page 7



FACES & PLACES

PNCU celebrates 100 years

See Page 12

INDEX

Opinion	4
Seniors	5
Sports	7
Around the Region	9
Public Notices	9
Classifieds	10
Faces & Places	12

Council approves nearly \$1.5M in free cash for City Hall Phase II

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

On Feb. 16, by a vote of 12-1, the Chicopee City Council approved a request from Mayor John Vieau for a \$1,471,672 appropriation from the city’s free cash account to be spent on design and engineering costs pertaining to Phase II of the City Hall Rehabilitation Project.

The \$14.2 million first phase of the project was completed several weeks ago, as repairs were made to the building’s tower, crumbling brickwork and exterior stone, slate roof and HVAC system. New windows were installed, bathrooms were made ADA-compliant and the auditorium was renovated.

Phase II will focus on City Hall’s interior and will cost approximately \$5 million, most of which the city will bond for. Last Tuesday, Vieau assured the council that the city can afford the endeavor, as a number of expenses will be coming off its books during the next two years.

“I think that really helps to substantiate the fact that we need to go forward with Phase II of City Hall,” said Vieau.

As part of Phase II, the building will

be made “active-shooter safe,” said Vieau, adding that active-shooter training is already required for City Hall employees during their first quarter.

“It isn’t if it happens – it’s when... I can tell you that we are doing that training” to prepare, he said.

Unlike Phase I, which was slowed by a series of unexpected obstacles resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, Director of Planning & Development Lee Pouliot sad that the second phase is “such a known quantity that we’re not expecting any surprises as significant as what came up in Phase I.”

Phase II will involve installing carpeting, replacing lights with LED bulbs, renovating and potentially relocating office space, increasing storage and other cosmetic improvements. It will be 15 to 16 months before the design process is completed, Pouliot said.

The vast majority of the council is on board with beginning Phase II. Noting that the city has been frugal with its money, Councilor James Tillitson spoke about the importance of initiating the second phase.

“We’re going to have something

that’s going to last us for another 50 or 60 years. It’s a historic building. You can’t find a building like this anywhere; I don’t care where you go. This is part of Chicopee’s history,” Tillitson said.

City Hall opened in 1871 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. Due to its municipal functions and historic nature, Tillitson believes that the remainder of the project can be aided by a variety of grants.

When all is said and done, the City Hall Revitalization Project will cost approximately \$20 million, said Tillitson.

Ward 1 Councilor Joel McAuliffe was against the renovation when it was originally discussed in 2019. While his economic concerns linger, McAuliffe is now all in on the project.

“Once we made the decision to move forward with Phase I, it was a matter of when, not if, of moving into Phase II,” said McAuliffe. “I have seen some of the progress made and appreciate the historical preservation. I do want to raise the question, and we need to be cognizant moving forward, about the amount of money that we have been spending.”

Tillitson firmly believes that the in-

vestment will be worthwhile. For future Chicopee residents, the building will stand tall, offering a glimpse of the city’s past.

“You’re spending it for the next generations. For your grandchildren and great-grandchildren; they’ll have something to look at it. They won’t see many buildings like this in the years to come now,” said Tillitson.

Tillitson estimated that building a new structure would cost between \$40 and \$50 million and lack the character that City Hall is rich with.

“We’ve been tearing buildings down for years and not preserving our history,” said Tillitson. “We’re at the crossroads here. If we don’t fix it and maintain it, it’s not going to last. [A new building] would be a modern structure and wouldn’t have the historic value that this one does.”

Ward 6 Councilor Derek Dobosz was the lone representative who voted against the motion; Dobosz has opposed the revitalization project since it was first discussed due to financial concerns.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

St. Stanislaus School to host drive-through Irish dinner

CHICOPEE – St. Stanislaus School will be hosting a drive-through Irish dinner on Saturday, March 20 from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Each meal costs \$10 per person and includes corned beef, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, Irish soda bread, and dessert. There will also be a variety of cookies for sale that can be purchased by the half dozen for \$3 or whole dozen for \$5.

To purchase a ticket and schedule a pick up time, please call the school office at (413) 592-5135. Tickets can be reserved ahead of time and paid for at pick up. Pick up is between 3:30 and 5:30 in the back parking lot of St. Stanislaus School at 534 Front St. in Chicopee. Masks are required while on school property. Proceeds will help benefit the school education fund.

RiverMills Center launches tablet lending program

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Council on Aging has launched a tablet lending program for Chicopee seniors ages 55 and older who have internet access, but do not have an updated device to get on the internet successfully.

These tablets can be used to get online, play games, or join Zoom program-

ming. This program will allow seniors to sign out a device for up to three weeks at a time. The tablets will also have charging and typing accessories, as well as a basic user guide.

Anyone interested in borrowing a tablet can contact Program Technician Jona Ruiz at (413) 534-3698 ext.104.

RiverMills Center transportation services for seniors

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Council on Aging’s Transportation Department is doing emergency rides to supermarkets, pharmacies and doctor’s appointment during COVID-19, for Chicopee seniors 60 and older.

Transportation service is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m., for Chicopee’s older adults.

For reservations, please call (413) 536-5733.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chicopee COA follows all CDC Safety Standards and adheres to all mandates from the City and State of Massachusetts.

A \$10,000 grant from WestMass ElderCare has allowed the senior center to expand its transportation offerings.

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Chicopee St. Patrick's Parade Committee launches March Money Madness fundraiser

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee St. Patrick's Parade Committee is once again selling "March Money Madness" calendars to benefit the committee's activities. Calendars are \$10 each and give the purchaser 31 chances to win. A drawing is held every day during the month of March. Prizes range from \$50 to \$300. Proceeds from calendar sales will support the committee's current expenses and future activities. Although the 2020 and 2021 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parades were canceled, rent for storing the

Colleen's float and other expenses still need to be paid. The committee has also begun planning events leading up to the 2022 parade, which promises to be bigger and better than ever. Calendars can be purchased by calling Haley at (413) 426-6825, or by contacting any committee member. More information is also available on the committee's Facebook page. Watch the Committee's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/chicopeespc/> beginning on March 1 for re-

sults of the raffle drawings, which will be posted daily. The Chicopee St. Patrick's Parade Committee strives to promote Irish pride and culture through its many events. For over 65 years, the committee has organized the annual Colleen Contest and Coronation Ball, constructed the Colleen's award-winning float for the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade, and awarded scholarships to young women who plan to further their education at a college or university.

Horizons for Homeless Children seeking volunteers

HOLYOKE/SPRINGFIELD – With more than 20,000 children under the age of six experiencing homelessness this past year, Horizons for Homeless Children has a high need for volunteers to play with homeless children in Holyoke and Springfield. "We have a need for volunteer Playspace Activity Leaders to provide two hours of healing play each week to homeless children in Holyoke and Springfield," staff members said. Online trainings are scheduled for Sat., Feb. 27, from 9:30-11:30 a.m., or Tues., March 2, from 6-8 p.m.

UMass Theater's Women in Theatrical Design series kicks off with Costume Designer Anita Yavich

AMHERST – When costume designer Anita Yavich creates a design, she thinks about her work as helping to create the world her characters inhabit, defining how the clothes convey that world's history, aesthetics, culture, myths, archetypes. As part of the UMass Theater speaker series "Women in Theatrical Design," on March 2 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Anita Yavich will be in conversation with faculty counterpart Yao Chen live on Zoom to discuss her approach to design, and how her experience as a woman and immigrant influences how she moves through her field. (While costume design is not as dominated by male practitioners as other theatrical design fields, the industry overall is still overwhelmingly male-dominated.) Anita Yavich has designed costumes for Broadway productions including Fool for Love, Venus in Fur, Chinglish, and Anna in the Tropics. Her opera credits include Aida at San Francisco Opera; Cyrano

De Bergerac at La Scala, Metropolitan Opera and Royal Opera House (Covent Garden); Les Troyens at Metropolitan Opera. Current projects: Der Ring des Nibelungen at Opera Australia, Brisbane; Lempicka at La Jolla Playhouse. She has received Obie, Lucille Lortel, Drama Desk, and Ovation Awards. "Women in Theatrical Design" is a speaker series presented by the University of Massachusetts Department of Theater, with support from Women for UMass Amherst, as well as the Arts Extension Service, giving women the platform to share their experiences in theatrical design, which is historically a male-dominated field. Speakers include Jane Shaw, Jane Cox, and Mimi Lien. Events will occur throughout March. For more information visit our website. Registration is encouraged but not required through the Fine Arts Center Box Office.

GSSSI announces assistance with COVID vaccine registration

REGION – Greater Springfield Senior Services, Inc. (I) is now assisting older adults with registering for the COVID-19 vaccine through the online registration portals. Interested parties can call GSSSI at (413) 781-8800 (Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) to be connected to a highly trained, bilingual team of dedicated Information and Referral Specialists. Staff are ready to assist with online sign-ups and are available to answer any questions.

Montemagni earns spot on Emmanuel College Fall 2020 Dean's List

BOSTON – Emmanuel College in Boston has named Mikaela Montemagni of Chicopee to the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester. To earn a spot on the Dean's List, Emmanuel students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for a 16-credit semester.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Ancient Persian city

5. Spindles

11. Stake

12. Retrain

16. Close by

17. Commercial

18. One who publicly announces

19. American ballplayer

24. Junior's father

25. Go up or climb

26. Concern

27. When you hope to get there

28. Iacocca and Oswald are two

29. Plant of the lily family

30. Male college organization

31. National capital

33. Raccoonlike animal

34. Symbols of fertility

38. Astronomy unit

39. Series of ridges in anatomy

40. Hebrew leader

43. A portent of good or evil

44. Supreme goddess

45. Gelatinous substance

49. Engage in a contest

50. Famed ballplayer Ruth

51. Pledge

53. - __, denotes past

54. Revival

56. Spanish surname

58. Gold

59. Elsa's sister

60. Workplace

63. Large quantity of something

64. Engraved

65. Discount

CLUES DOWN

1. Shoe

2. Disquiet

3. Posture

4. Large nests

5. Soviet "Second Symphony" composer

6. Joins two pipes of different diameter

7. Exist

8. Overdose

9. Pleat of fabric

10. Predict the future

13. Burgeoning technology

14. Having made a valid will

15. Having no fixed course

20. __ route

21. Lethal dose

22. Indian musical pattern of notes

23. Athlete

27. Geological times

29. Atomic #21

30. In support of

31. Brew

32. Certificate of insurance

33. Taxi

34. Type of saying

35. For cigars

36. Phil __, former CIA

37. Local area network

38. Gym class

40. Philippine Island

41. Not great or bad

42. Eastern part of NY state

44. Gov't lawyers

45. Constructions

46. Former British gold coin

47. Unkeyed

48. Rechristen

50. Threaten persistently

51. Southeast

52. Cools your home

54. Removes the leaves

55. Regretted

57. Thus

61. Relief organization (abbr.)

62. Exclamation of surprise

Chicopee Register

February 26, 2021 | Page 3

GUEST COLUMN

Milk jug seed starting part 2

This week we will delve into part 2 of the great milk jug seed starting experiment, posed by Barbara who wrote in last week wondering if I have had any success with this trendy technique.

Here are the nuts and bolts! Start with clean gallon containers, the see-through kind that water or milk come in. About four inches up, just below the handle, safely cut around the jug, leaving an inch or so on either side of the handle as a “hinge.”

You should be able to bend the top back and forth. Make a number of drainage holes in the bottom; three or four per quadrant. There is a lot of advice out there on how to do that, from drilling holes, to twisting an exacto knife around and around and even using a hot tool to melt a hole in the plastic (really!). I generally like to make holes in reused plastic containers by banging a large nail through the bottom into a piece of scrap lumber placed underneath.

Once the drainage holes are made, fill the bottom of the jug with moist seed starting mix. ‘Coast of Maine’ has recently become my favorite after a few years of trying out new brands. With the soil in place, sow your seeds. If the seeds are tiny or even relatively tiny, don’t cover them with soil, simply space them out evenly on top and press into the surface.

You may wonder how to deal with tiny seed. I place it in a folded index card and gently tap the card so that the seeds fly out. If you can handle the seed easily, do cover with only a small amount soil, say an eighth of an inch or so and firm down. How many seeds to sow is a tricky question. If you want to keep the plants in the jug until they go in the garden, then hope for four plants, maybe six per jug at the most, figuring how big they will be at transplant stage. For tricky germinators, perhaps double or triple the amount of seed you sow versus how many you desire. If germination is great, you can always transplant some out. Close the container and seal it with duct tape. Be sure to label the jug with the plant name via a paint pen, really the only writing utensil that won’t smear, fade or wash away when exposed to the elements.

Place the jugs in full exposure outdoors and with the cap off, so that heat can escape and small amounts of moisture can penetrate. When the temperature outdoors heats up past 60 degrees, be sure to take the duct tape off and vent your seedlings. Check often and water as needed. The pros recommend to cover with a blanket if frost threatens or even move heat lovers inside on cold nights. To prevent tip-over by four-legged friends or playful kids, pros also suggest putting the jugs in trays or bins.

As you can see, this method is not maintenance-free, but certainly worthy of a try especially for gardeners who are short on indoor space or in the mood to get their hands dirty earlier in the season than normal. January and February is the perfect time to start seeds that need a cold treatment. Look for key terms on the seed packet, such as “stratification needed,” “sow in the fall,” or other terms.

You can begin to sow cold hardy annuals in March- think chard, spinach, kale, snapdragons, bachelor button and the like, while April should be reserved for warmth-lovers like pepper, tomato,

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist

GUEST COLUMN

In My BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

The last week of January, I saw a barred owl perched in a tree at the edge of my yard. Last year, I saw a barred owl in my yard on a regular basis. It would often perch on the roof of my henhouse. This year, I had not seen it until recently. It was probably hoping to catch rodents hiding in the tall grass.

The barred owl is a large, earless owl with dark eyes. It has barring on its head and chest with streaking underneath. It has gray and brown feathers and white spots on its back. It is about 17 to 24 inches long. The barred owl and barn owl are the only owls with black eyes; all others have yellow eyes.

The barred owl is one of the more vocal owls, often calling during the day and saying “hoo-hoo-hoo,” which sounds like “who cooks for you?” The female’s hoots are higher pitched than the male’s. They inhabit woods and woodland swamps. A pair often calls back and forth to each other.

The female lays two to four white eggs. She will use a nest box, which has a hole greater than six inches or nest in an abandoned hawk or crow nest. The average territory is about one square mile. In winter, they may expand the territory with males often leaving the territory when food is scarce. In early spring, they return to their mate and territory.

Injured barred owl

I recently read a barred owl, which was struck by a car, and brought to the Cummings School Veter-



COURTESY PHOTO

A barred owl.

inary Medicine at Tufts University in Grafton for treatment, was returned to the wild. A man driving behind the vehicle, which hit the owl, saw it happen. He stopped as the owl appeared stunned and was flapping its wings. He wrapped it in his coat and called police. It was brought to Tufts and released back into the wild at a wildlife area near where it was found a few weeks later.

Red-winged blackbird

A Wheelwright resident saw his first red-winged blackbird for 2021. He said he did not see the bird at his feeder, but he saw it perched in a tree and then in flight.

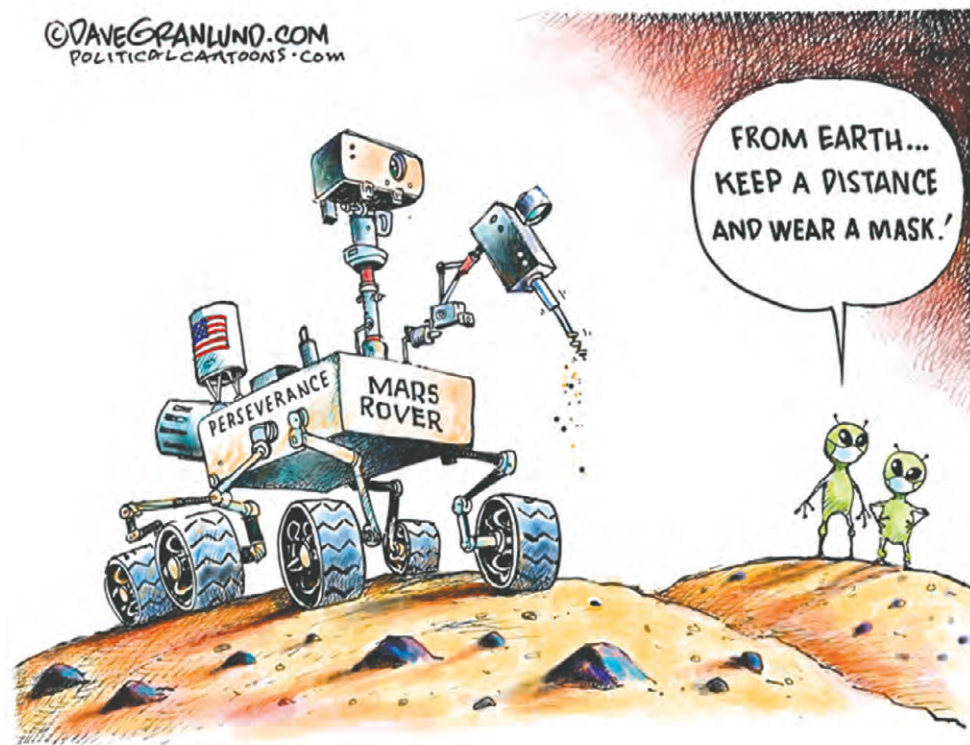
Flock of robins

I received an email from a North Brookfield resident on Jan. 30. She said, “This week I had a flock of robins descend on my holly bush and eat every berry on it and it was full of berries.” She also had four starlings come to her feeders.

Birds during snowstorm

The month of February opened with a major snowstorm Monday, Feb. 1 into Tuesday, Feb. 2. It dumped over a foot of snow. The snow started early Monday and I had a mourning dove, five or six blue jays, at least six American goldfinches, a pair of cardinals, three chipping sparrows, downy woodpeckers, red-bellied woodpecker, black-capped chickadees, tufted titmice and dark-eyed juncos. I also had a group of gray squirrels. Tuesday I had two squirrels tunneled into the snow to find the seeds on the ground under the tray feeder. Except for the mourning dove, all the birds from yesterday came to the feeders. The male cardinal stood out with his bright red feathers against the white snow.

People may report a bird sighting or bird-related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at ext. 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



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Send letters to: *The Chicopee Register*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email chicopeeregister@turley.com.

The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

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Zoom Meditation with Michelle

CHICOPEE – The Council on Aging offers “Meditation with Michelle” Via Zoom, Thursdays at 12 p.m.

Are you feeling stressed? Do you want to learn how to relax? Join us for Meditation on Zoom. This class is led by Michelle Zemba LMT. This is an online class.

The Zoom link will be shared on RiverMills Center’s Facebook page. If you do not have Facebook, please call RiverMills Center at (413) 534-3698 to provide your email address for the Zoom link to be sent to you. Please save the link as this will be the link you will use for each class.

Tuesday yoga at RiverMills Center

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Council on Aging will be offering Zoom Yoga on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.

Caitlin Lavin, Certified Yoga Instructor, will be leading classes. These classes are free and the Zoom links are available on RiverMills Center’s Facebook page or by calling (413) 534-3698.

Gentle exercise with Ryan via Zoom

CHICOPEE- The Council on Aging offers “Gentle Exercise with Ryan” Via Zoom, Mondays and Fridays at 12 p.m.

This class focuses on functional movement & fun. This is an online class. Join Ryan every Monday and Friday at 12 p.m. The Zoom link is shared on River-

Mills Center’s Facebook page. If you do not have Facebook, please contact RiverMills Center at (413) 534-3698 to provide your email address for the Zoom link to be emailed to you. Please save the Zoom link as that is the link you will use each class.

Zoom Tai Chi with Michelle

CHICOPEE – The Council on Aging offers “Tai Chi with Michelle” Via Zoom, Thursdays at 1:30 p.m.

Experience the many slow and gentle benefits of Tai Chi Fit/Qigong. The class is led by Michelle Zemba LMT, Certified in Tai Chi/Qigong. This is an online class.

The Zoom link will be shared on RiverMills Center’s Facebook page. If you do not have Facebook, please call RiverMills Center at (413) 534-3698 to provide your email address for the Zoom link to be sent to you. Please save the link as this will be the link you will use for each class.

AUDITORIUM from page 1

said Lee Pouliot, director of planning and development.

An emphasis was placed on restoring the historical details that had been lost over time due to age and a lack of maintenance. The auditorium, which was critical to the municipality for generations, can once more build upon its legacy.

“When the auditorium first opened, it was where everything of importance happened,” said Pouliot. “It was a gathering

place, an event place, there were celebrations and ceremonies and it was really that very central place where people gathered to contribute.”

Pouliot and his colleagues recognized the historic value of the long-forgotten space. The renovation wasn’t easy, however; the department was unable to locate the building’s original plans prior to the onset of work in 2019.

“During the design phase, we had to literally take little pieces of it apart to figure that out,” said Pouliot. “For each



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PLANNING DEPARTMENT.

The City Hall Auditorium has been returned to its former state and is primed to serve residents and host municipal meetings and functions for decades to come.



GARDEN from page 4

basil, zinnias and marigolds, paying special attention to frost predictions and bringing these plants in as needed.

Well Barbara, thank you for the great topic! I promise to give this method a try and will report back my successes and failures.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

detail of the space, be it plaster work or painting or the stained glass, we had to then work and design today for what was high-skilled artisan work from the late 1800’s.”

In addition to employees from D.A. Sullivan & Sons, approximately 20 sub-trade contractors contributed to the renovation. An incredible amount of effort went into forming the team, and Pouliot was “highly impressed” with the spirit of collaboration that prevailed.

While the city must still follow state-mandated COVID-19 protocols, the space will have an occupancy of 299 individuals post-pandemic.

The auditorium will also serve as ChicopeeTV’s new studio and include AV technology, microphones, speakers and cameras that will be permanently stationed in the room.

“The intention is that ChicopeeTV will have a very quick, efficient, easy way to both livestream and live feed to our local cable access channel city council and school committee meetings,” said Pouliot.

ChicopeeTV will no longer have to dangle its heavy extension cords out of

the fourth-story meeting room in the City Hall Annex building. For years now, the studio’s van has been stationed in the annex parking lot during each City Council meeting, causing a recurring pattern of technical difficulties.

“Everything is built into the space, and literally with the flick with a few switches, they’ll be able to record and go live quickly,” said Pouliot.

A ceremony to unveil the renovated auditorium will not occur until spring, Pouliot said, as final touches, including work on the space’s rose window, are still being attended to.

When all is said and done, the renovated auditorium will signify Chicopee’s renewed commitment to preserving its rich history. It will be a career accomplishment for Pouliot and his peers.

“I think it’s a very proud moment to see where it is today and recognize that we’ll be returning that space to those originally intended uses in sort of a contemporary context,” said Pouliot.

Dalton Zbierski can be reached at dz-bierski@turley.com.

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IN THE CITY

CHIEF JEBB from page 1

support, fair and impartial policing and helped establish training partnerships for local college students.

Over the past six-plus years, Jebb helped oversee the establishment of a drug abuse and recovery team to aid residents who have overdosed and a community outreach program, which has enabled the department to form stronger commu-

nity bonds.

The station also came to host the headquarters for WESTCOMM dispatch, a Citizen and Youth Police Academy was launched in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee, and a C3 Unit was implemented in Chicopee center to provide specialized programs for individuals in the area.

Mayor John Vieau said he's sad-

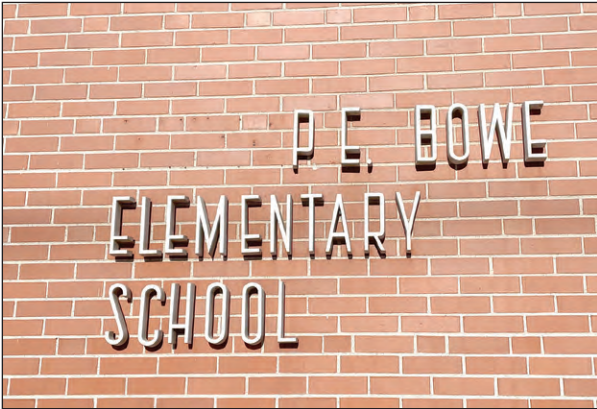
dened to see Jebb depart from his position but wishes the longtime city servant the best moving forward. On Feb. 19, Vieau thanked Jebb for making the community safer.

"While I understand the Chief's reasons, I accepted his decision with a very heavy heart," said John Vieau. "I have had the privilege to be with the Chief in so many situations: at roll calls, in City

Council meetings, and in meetings addressing public safety in the city of Chicopee. His strength and integrity have inspired me and made our city better. "

Deputy Chief Lonny Dakin will assume command of the department as it searches for its next permanent police chief.

Dalton Zbierski can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.



TURLEY PUBLICATION PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Ventilation issues have prevented in-person learning from occurring at Patrick E. Bowe School during the entirety of the pandemic, but repairs will soon be complete.



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1 Allen Street, Hampden, MA

413-566-8324

www.lacucinahampden.com

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2341 Boston Road (The Wilbraham Shops)

Wilbraham, MA

413-279-2020

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CURRENT HOURS: Lunch: Thurs-Sat starting at

11:30am; Dinner: Tues-Thurs 4-9pm;

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Sunday Brunch 11:30am-2:30pm

◆ Donovan's Irish Pub

Eastfield Mall, 1655 Boston Road, Springfield, MA

413-543-0791

www.donovanspub.com

CURRENT HOURS: Thurs-Sat 11am-9pm;

Sun 9am-7pm; Sunday breakfast 9am - noon

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2341 Boston Road, The Wilbraham Shops

Wilbraham, MA

413-540-8080

www.venicepizzagrill.com

OPEN: Tues-Thurs 10:45am-9:30pm

Fri & Sat 10:45am -10pm; Sun 11am-9pm

Closed Monday

SCHOOLS from page 1

have the option of attending school in-person four days each week, with Wednesdays off. The families of more than 30% of the district's students have committed to learning remotely for the remainder of the year.

At Patrick E. Bowe School, students in grades two through five will not return to in-person learning until early April due to ventilation concerns in the building. Vulnerable students, kindergarteners and first-grade students at Bowe School have attended in-person learning on the fourth floor of Chicopee High School since mid-January.

A \$640,000 project to improve air quality at Bowe School is expected to be completed by March 29, said Director of Maintenance Scott Chapdelaine on Feb. 17. But his responsibilities extend far beyond Bowe School, and he said several ventilation improvements have been made throughout the district.

"We've taken steps to improve air quality in the district, starting by checking the air in the equipment, including exhaust fans, unit ventilators, cleaning these units, filter changes and upgrades to some filters. We made scheduling changes on HVAC equipment and adjusted all units for outside air dampers for the maximum fresh air we can bring into the building," Chapdelaine said.

Independent contractors have been hired to analyze and improve the performance of HVAC systems in the district as well as conduct air quality testing to identify CO2 levels in classrooms and how many air changes occur on an hourly basis.

In addition to all clinics, gymnasiums, cafeterias and medical waiting rooms, air quality in 15% of the district's classrooms has been analyzed. Chapdelaine would like to see that number rise to 50% and believes that the district now has the capability to do so.

"We decided to purchase our own testing equipment," he said. "We then tested and documented the air changes per hour in every single classroom with our qualified HVAC techs, excluding, of course, Chicopee Comp., Dupont and Chicopee High, which we



The Szetela Early Childhood Center on Macek Drive is one of over a dozen Chicopee schools that have resumed in-person learning.

converted to MERV 13-14 filters. We then purchased and installed HEPA air purifiers for every single classroom with uninvents, medical waiting rooms and office spaces."

Chapdelaine expressed his discouragement regarding the city's decision to furlough a considerable amount of his employees last month. On Jan. 11, 22 of his 63 employees were furloughed, but six returned on Jan. 19 and the remainder returned on Feb. 22.

"I want to make clear tonight that I'm very proud of the custodians and craftsman that have worked tirelessly throughout this entire pandemic, keeping our buildings clean, safe, and with zero transmissions in our schools. None of these employees have had the opportunity to work remotely," Chapdelaine said. Dozens of Chicopee teachers have been able to teach remotely for extended periods of time during the pandemic.

Chapdelaine said he was off-put by a School Committee member's recent decision to complain to City Council regarding air quality in the schools without addressing him first.

"The entire school committee should know by now that I'm available 24/7, 365 to hear any issue in our school building," he said. "I will address it to the best of my ability, and this has been my policy for over 25 years working for the city."

Moving forward, Chapdelaine would like the city to reimplement the Indoor Air Quality Committee that originally functioned two decades ago. While operational, the committee met monthly or when issues were reported. Members also toured all of the city's schools and document-

ed complaints and problems with air quality or cleanliness.

The committee originally consisted of a maintenance director, teacher, custodian, nursing supervisor and a member of the PTO. Chapdelaine requested that the city reestablish the committee.

Mayor John Vieau listened to Chapdelaine's report and commended the Maintenance Department for the work it completes throughout the city, both inside and outside of the school district.

"Not only is Scott doing that for the 15 school buildings and the admin. Building - he's also doing facilities for all of the municipal buildings in the city of Chicopee and providing us with PPE and making sure that the air filters are clean and everything's functioning properly. Thank you to you and your team for all you do for the city; it doesn't go unrecognized," said Vieau.



Barry Elementary School on Connell Street is a National Blue Ribbon School and has welcomed back students for the first time in several months.

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Page 6 | February 26, 2021

Chicopee Register

Sports

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Pacers complete shortened season

CHICOPEE – With a narrow loss at home against East Longmeadow, the Chicopee High School boys basketball team successfully managed to fit in an 11-game slate, going 6-5. The former Division 2 finalists finished the season with four wins in their final five games, including a pair of wins against rival Chicopee Comprehensive.



Darryl Daniels fights through the defense to get a layup.



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM DEANTE BROWN SWITCHES HIS SHOT TO AVOID THE DEFENSE.



Da'Saun Stewart reaches out for a shot.



Asiatik Allah attempts a free throw.

High school football set to start next week

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – While the vaccination effort is ongoing, there is still a need to make modifications to high school sports and football will be no different.

High school football games are finally set to commence next month and those that are able to watch games will not see a major difference in how the games are played other than what happens behind the scenes and on the sidelines.

Like all sports currently, football players will be required to wear face coverings. In the last couple of months, variants of COVID-19 coming from the United Kingdom and South Africa have resulted in a more contagious mutations of the virus. As a result, people have been advised to wear multiple or multi-layer face coverings now. The MIAA is not allowing gaiter face coverings, but are not currently requiring the multi-layer coverings. Football players wear full helmets with some also wearing splash guards. The guards are being encouraged as they provide an additional layer of protection.

Larger teams like Longmeadow, Central, and Holyoke will have limits to the number of players they can bring to the sideline. A maximum of just 45 players will be allowed to dress for games and be on the sidelines.

In many high school games, players are injured and unable to play, often wear their jerseys to the field and are on the sidelines to cheer on teammates. Those players will not be allowed in the Fall 2 season in order to limit the number of people on the sidelines of games. Only 45 players and a maximum of six coaches will be allowed on the sidelines along with other game personnel, like officials, the chain gang, and athletic trainers.

The 45 players on the sideline will be required to have face coverings at all time and must be socially distant from one another.

The coin toss, which usually features multiple captains going to midfield, will only feature one player from coach team and the referee.

During games, when the action gets intense, players and coaches will often crowd the sideline. This will not be allowed and will be strictly enforced. Referees are being instructed to assess penalties if warnings to be at least two yards away from the

See FOOTBALL page 8

Wolves near end of season

CHICOPEE – The Hampden Charter School of Science, which includes students in Chicopee, Holyoke, South Hadley, and Springfield, will conclude its girls basketball season this week

with a pair of games against Palmer High School. The Wolves have gone 4-6 so far this year, including a pair of wins recently over Pathfinder, and two wins over Westfield Tech.



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM Brianna Francis takes a shot.



Jan'Niya Bolden goes for the layup.



Catherine Reynolds attempts a free throw.



Denaja Lewis gets the layup ahead of a defensive player.

Outlaw open entry lists loading up for Icebreaker, Thompson 300

THOMPSON, Conn. — The Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park oval is shaping up as the place to watch the biggest stars of Tour-Type Modified Racing in 2021. Entry lists for both the Icebreaker 125 on April 10/11 and the return of the Thompson 300 on October 9/10 are already loaded with local, regional, and even national open-wheel racing headliners.

As the first and last events of the season at the historic Connecticut track, both the Icebreaker and the Thompson 300 are expected to be the year’s two greatest shows. The early entries back up these expectations with a mix of touring series champions, track champions, and big-time winners in the Modified ranks. With so many top drivers ready for action, the buzz that has surrounded the events for months will only get louder.

Leading the roll call is six-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Doug Coby of Milford, CT. The modern Modified legend has filed entries for both the \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 and the \$20,000-to-win Thompson 300. Coby will compete at the Icebreaker in the #20CT Modified Rick Czarnecki. For the Thompson 300, he will be behind the wheel of his own Doug Coby Racing #10CT car that debuted in 2020.

Coby is one of multiple drivers planning to do double-duty with the Icebreaker and the NASCAR Modified Tour event at Virginia’s Martinsville Speedway on April 8. Another is multi-time NASCAR Modified and Modified Racing Series (MRS) winner Eric Goodale of Riverhead, NY. Goodale, who is currently competing in the World Series of Asphalt Stock Car Racing at Florida’s New Smyrna Speedway, is



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Tom Morris racing is back this season.

looking forward to keeping the Thompson Modified tradition alive.

“I love racing at Thompson,” Goodale said. “It’s one of my favorite tracks. I’m excited to do it. The thought to go into a Modified season and not have a Modified race at Thompson would be a bit disturbing. This is the stuff I grew up on, and I’m finally getting to live it everyday. I’ll be leaving Martinsville, heading home, switching the car over and heading right to Thompson for a double-header weekend.”

Several other notable names have already joined Coby in committing early to both the Icebreaker 125 and Thompson 300. Multi-time Thompson Speedway champion and former NASCAR Weekly Racing Series national champion Keith Rocco of Berlin, CT will be gunning for the two five-figure first prizes in his familiar #57CT. So will former Modified Racing Series (MRS) and International Supermodified Association (ISMA) champion Jona-

than McKennedy of Chelmsford, MA. Others who beat the crowd with their entries include 2011 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Ron Silk, two-time MRS champion Chris Pasteryak, and recent MRS winner Ronnie Williams.

The Icebreaker entry list alone, meanwhile, is nearing two dozen names with two months still to go before the event. One driver that everyone will have their eyes on is Franklin, MA’s Bobby Santos III. Santos has become the dean of big-money open-wheel events in recent years, winning everything from the Musket 250 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway to the Little 500 at Indiana’s Anderson Speedway. At the Icebreaker 125, Santos will be in the cockpit of the #44MA Tinio Racing car he has piloted to 11 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour victories.

Other high-profile names preparing for the Icebreaker 125 are MRS champion Anthony Nocella, recent World Series Mod-

ified Open winner Mike Christopher Jr., many-time Modified winner Richard Savary, and former Pro-4 Modified standout Derek Robbie. While their Thompson plans remain to be seen beyond the Icebreaker, a good start could certainly spur them to attend more of the planned big-money events.

The Icebreaker 125 is the opener of the new Thompson Outlaw Open Modified Series for 2021. The six-race series includes the annual Icebreaker, the Thompson 300 as part of the World Series of Speedway Racing, and four Wednesday night events held between June and September. The Wednesday events will pay a minimum of \$5,000 to win; meanwhile, the Icebreaker and Thompson 300 have guaranteed top prizes of \$10,000 and \$20,000, respectively. All told, more than \$250,000 in purse money will be posted at these six races.

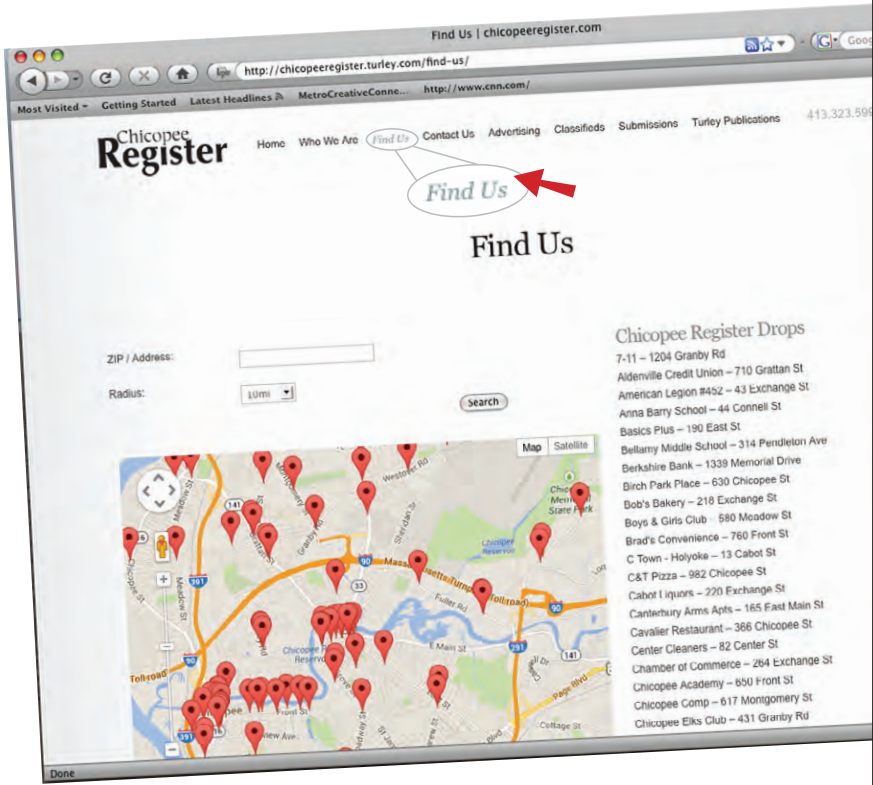
The Icebreaker 125 and Thompson 300 entry forms, along with the rules for the Outlaw Open Modified Series, have been posted at www.acttour.com/outlaw-open-modifieds (link is external). The early-entry deadlines are March 15 for the Icebreaker 125 and April 15 for the Thompson 300. More information about the series will be released throughout the season.

Thompson Speedway opens its 82nd season with the 46th Icebreaker on Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11. The Icebreaker 125 is part of a nine-division that also includes all of Thompson’s local divisions plus the Pro All Stars Series Super Late Models, NEMA Lites, and EXIT Realty Pro Truck Challenge.

The full event schedule and ticketing info will be announced in the coming weeks. All local and state health and safety guidelines are in effect.

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Our online newspaper flipbook is updated weekly too!

MIAA official recognized for leadership by NFHS

FRANKLIN — The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) selected eight leaders in state high school associations to receive an NFHS Citation. This award honors individuals who have made contributions to the NFHS, state high school associations, athletic director and coaching professions, the officiating avocation and fine arts/performing arts programs. The NFHS Citation is one of the most prestigious achievements in high school athletics and performing arts.

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) is extremely proud to announce the NFHS 2021 Section 1 Citation recipient:

Sherry Bryant, associate executive director of the MIAA.

During her 30-year career at the Associations, Bryant has served as Financial Controller, Director of Human Resources, Technology Advancement Leader, and Liaison to a number of sport Committees including, Field Hockey, Basketball, Gymnastics, Skiing, Tennis, Softball, and co-liaison for Rugby. Bryant has also provided leadership through her service to the MIAA Tournament Management Committee, MIAA Blue Ribbon Committee on Gender Equity, the MIAA Covid-19 Task

Force, and MIAA Women and Girls Leadership initiatives. At the national level, she has served two terms on the NFHS Field Hockey Committee most recently as chair, is a leader in the NFHS/USA Field Hockey Advocacy Group, and has been appointed to the NFHS Strategic Planning Committee.

MIAA member, Field Hockey Committee Chair, Coach and retired Rockport High School Athletic Director Mary Ryan stated, “Sherry is hands-down the ultimate professional and so deserving of the NFHS Section 1 Citation. Her commitment, dedication and tireless work ethic on the local, state and national levels on behalf of our student-athletes, athletic directors and coaches is beyond reproach. I have the utmost respect and admiration for all that she does in the quest of Educational Athletics. I have been so fortunate to call her my colleague and friend.”

According to MIAA Executive Director Bill Gaine, “Sherry Bryant’s 30-year service to the MIAA membership as well as being a key Senior Executive teammate has been outstanding. I am very pleased her contributions to our NFHS Section 1 colleagues and NFHS Association have been recognized and will be celebrated.”

FOOTBALL from page 7

sideline are not adhered to.

There will be more time to account for the need for players to have water breaks and catch their breath. Timeouts are extended to two minutes long. Intermissions between quarters will also be longer. Water breaks will also be instituted around the six-minute mark of each quarter, though referees can declare a water break around that time during a change of possession.

A schedule for the football season has yet to be released, though it has already been determined there will be no

tournament. The same has applied to the fall and winter seasons.

A few athletic directors have already said traditional Friday night football is unlikely to occur during the Fall 2 season due to the colder temperatures. Right now, nighttime temperatures are consistently in the 30’s, unlike the normal fall season where it is still much warmer until November.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoon games are likely in order for players to be able to play some of the games in the sun and slightly warmer temperatures. The Fall 2 season will be continuing into April.

County retirement board suspected of malfeasance, mismanaging funds

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

REGION – A state audit released on Feb. 16 revealed that the Hampden County Regional Board of Retirement has mis-managed funds and committed probable malfeasance.

Several town administrators held a conference call on Monday to discuss the findings and figure out a plan of action, including administrators from Wilbraham, Hampden, Longmeadow and East Longmeadow. The county communities are now demanding explanations and accountability.

“Years of mismanagement by the Hampden County Retirement Board has resulted in it having one of the highest unfunded liabilities of any retirement system in the state,” said Donald Davenport, Chair of the Hampden Board of Selectmen, on Feb. 22.

In a meeting that same night, Wilbraham Board of Selectmen Chair Bob Russell called the audit report findings “very disturbing.”

Of the 105 state governmental retire-

ment systems operating in the Commonwealth, Hampden County’s has the ninth most unfunded liability. As a result, the 35 communities affiliated with the county retirement board must pay at least an 8% more on each assessment until 2036.

“For Hampden, this year, our assessment increased from \$603,000 to \$706,000; a \$103,000 increase,” said Davenport.

“(The annual 8%) is a significant increase, and so there should be and ought to be a meeting and explanation about this,” said Wilbraham Town Administrator Nick Breault.

The audit, which looked at the board’s operations from January 2014 to December 2017, exposed a pattern of mismanagement, malfeasance, waste, abuse, possible fraud, violation of state ethic laws and conflicts of interest committed by the county’s retirement board.

According to the report, approximately \$234,000 of taxpayer and state employee contributions were spent on 119 false invoices for services never provided. The retirement board continuously approved the expenses without contracts

for services or documentation to monitor the performance of vendors.

“By the invoices that contain reference to track or order numbers, these numbers were fictitious, as were most references to company websites,” said Davenport. “I’ve held a number of public positions, and false invoices are generally a red flag to indicate misappropriation of funds or embezzlement.”

And the county retirement board violated procedure by making multiple attorneys members of the system, paying them \$179,266 in legal fees and \$448,210 in premiums.

“The significance there is that our employees pay 50% of their premium, and we pay 50%. They were paying 90% of the premiums for their lawyers,” said Davenport, noting that they spent taxpayers’ dollars.

The report also discussed issues with the board’s travel and appropriate expenses related to travel, along with board expense documentation, Breault said.

Three county retirement board members violated state ethics and conflict of interests laws by spending \$10,936 on

travel, lodging, recreation and entertainment while attending conferences. Chairperson Richard Theroux submitted \$1,825 for non-hotel lodging expenses while attending a conference in Cape Cod.

Two of the four receipts submitted by Theroux specified nonexistent properties in close proximity to his Cape Cod condominium. The other two receipts listed a rental company that does not conduct business near the area in question.

Auditors reported various discrepancies with the signatures on lodging documents provided.

Additionally, three county retirement board members received social security, paying a total of \$4,842; in the state of Massachusetts, public employees are not eligible for social security.

Auditors noted that monthly bank statements do not agree with the general ledger by approximately \$5-13,400. Theroux was also given a raise without documentation.

Over the course of the audit, the county retirement board paid approxi-

See **RETIREMENT BOARD** page 11

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD12P1475EA**

**Estate of:
Stanley J Gula, Sr.
DATE OF DEATH:
04/06/2012**

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: **Michael Gula of Chicago IL** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order that **Michael Gula of Chicago IL** be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before **10:00 a.m. on 03/19/2021**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this pro-

ceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 12, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/26/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758**

Docket No. HD21P0285EA

**Estate of:
Vincent John Guardino, Sr.
Date of Death: 12/02/2020**

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Vincent J Guardino, Jr.** of Belchertown, MA and **James C Guardino** of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Vincent J Guardino, Jr.** of Belchertown, MA and **James C Guardino** of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/29/2021**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a

timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 22, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/26/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600**

Docket No. HD21P0226EA

**Estate of:
Gerald Paul Grimard
Also Known As:
Jerry or Garce
Date of Death:
August 22, 2020**

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Joan M Ozga** of Chicopee, MA.

Joan M Ozga of Chicopee, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

02/26/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758**

Docket No. HD21C0031CA

**In the matter of:
Raeha Lee Pierson**

CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Raeha Lee Pierson of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Raeha Lee Spano

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/17/2021**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 17, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/26/2021

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Chicopee Register

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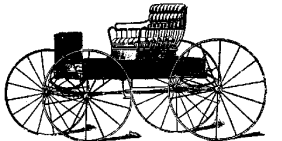
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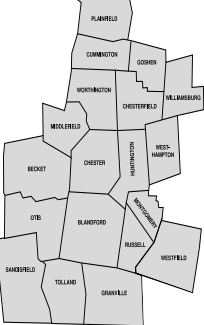
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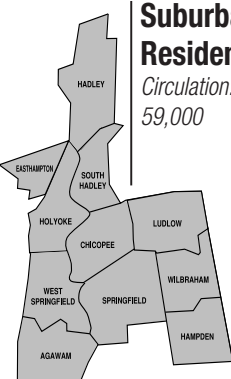
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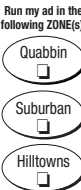
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25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
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33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
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AROUND THE REGION

RETIREMENT BOARD from page 9

mately \$80,000 on bank fees while other retirement boards pay no fees, said Dav-
enport.

Additionally, documents containing overtime payment information only lists staff names and salaries with no indication of hours worked or hourly wages.

Following the Monday morning call with area town administrators, Breault and Hampden Town Administrator Bob Markel said they're in the process of organizing a special meeting with the county retirement board to "ask for answers and probably demand very fundamental change, not only in the way the board operates but also in personnel," Markel said.

"We intend as a group to reach out to all the entities that are part of this (system) and make sure if they haven't received the report... which we believe they have, that

they know about it," Breault said.

Markel observed similar mismanagement by the Essex Regional Retirement Board in 2010 during his tenure as Ipswich's town manager; Markel was considered critical to the reform of the Essex board before leaving Ipswich in 2011, but considers the current dilemma to be the worst he's seen.

"This is worse than Essex County was," said Markel. "It's inconceivable that you could have such mismanagement of funds. These are the funds that taxpayers in all the towns contribute as well as the employees themselves."

Markel and other area officials have been in communication with the state's Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission, which has referred the results of the audit to the appropriate authorities for legal action.

"It seems to me that those appropriate

authorities would be the Attorney General as well as the State Ethics Commission," said Markel.

"We will see what happens on that side," said Wilbraham Town Counsel Tom Sullivan during the meeting in Wilbraham, referring to state authorities.

Markel said that the employees of Hampden County, other than in cities that have their own retirement boards, are entitled to an explanation.

"When we have to contribute as we do next year over \$100,000 in new contributions to the county retirement board, that takes money that we could use for other purposes in Hampden," said Markel.

Hampden Selectwoman Mary Ellen Glover applauded Markel for taking the lead and supports further investigation by PERAC. She considers the meeting of different communities with the county retirement board to be a good first step.

"It certainly seems like there's malfeasance going on at the very least. It seems to me that it puts our people's retirement in a very tenuous place. We don't know what will happen. We have to be vigilant on this because we want to protect our employees," said Glover.

Hampden Selectman John Flynn said he's also "had enough," adding that regional communities must now take a stand.

"This is the worst increase I've seen percentage-wise in the years I've been here. It shows a callous disregard to the member communities to think that they can just ask for any bill and we're going to pay it. This can't keep going on," said Flynn.

Dalton Zbierski can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

Elise Linscott contributed reporting to this story.

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The Polish National Credit Union celebrates 100th anniversary

CHICOPEE – It has been 100 years since the inception of the Polish National Credit Union. Founded in 1921, the Polish National Credit Union provided a systematic method of savings and low-cost loans to residents of the local community. Today, the Credit Union continues to serve residents and businesses of Western Mass and Connecticut with a full range of financial services, products and exceptional member service.

“Over the past 100 years, PNCU has been able to help individuals, businesses and communities alike,” said Jim Kelly, President and CEO. “We have helped families and first time home buyers afford their dream homes; we’ve helped put people through college; and have

helped people save for their futures. We look forward to the next 100 years of serving the community.”

And while the economy is still feeling the aftereffects of COVID-19, Jim Kelly wants people to know that “PNCU is in a healthy capital position to weather the storm. The Credit Union will not only celebrate its Centennial, but its achievements, having grown to be one of the major players in the finance industry in Western Massachusetts with assets hovering around 700 million.”

“This is a landmark year for the Credit Union. There are few organizations that can say they have been in existence for as long as we have,” said Sarah Mailhott, Marketing Manager for PNCU.

“The Credit Union’s founders started the Polish National Credit Union as a way provide their community with ways to save and borrow. Five generations later and we are still providing exceptional products and services that people count on.”

While COVID-19 has made it impossible to host a party to celebrate, visit any of their seven locations to grab a copy of the Polish National Credit Union History Booklet or a 2021 Centennial Calendar.

Headquartered in Chicopee, Polish National Credit Union is a full-service

credit union with a full suite of consumer and business products. The Credit Union has eight branches located in Chicopee, Granby, Westfield, Southampton, Hampden, and Wilbraham; online services at www.pncu.com; and a Facebook presence at facebook.com/PolishNationalCreditUnion.

Deposits are federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) and also by the Massachusetts Credit Union Share Insurance Corporation (MSIC). Polish National Credit Union’s NMLS number is 439259.



Local students named to Western New England University’s Fall 2020 Dean’s List

SPRINGFIELD – Close to 750 students have been named to the Fall 2020 Dean’s List at Western New England University. To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must achieve a GPA of 3.30 or higher.

“We are so proud of our Dean’s List students who demonstrated an unwavering commitment to excellence in their studies despite the unique challenges of our fall semester,” commented Dr. Robert E. Johnson, President.

“Of the roughly 3,000 colleges and universities tracked by the College Crisis Initiative, Western New England University was among just 27% nationwide that resumed primarily ‘in-person’ teaching last fall. Our Dean’s List students stayed focused and engaged; they should be very proud of their achievements. Well done,

Golden Bears!”

The following students have earned their place on Western New England University’s distinguished Dean’s List:

Jonathan Aube, of Chicopee, working toward a BS in Computer Science.

Szymon Filip, of Chicopee, working toward a Pre-Pharmacy.

Arriana Hasiuk, of Chicopee, working toward a degree in Business.

Kimberly Langevin, of Chicopee, working toward a BSBA in Accounting.

Jessica Lindsey, of Chicopee, working toward a BS in Neuroscience/Course Intensive Track.

Magen Lindsey, of Chicopee, working toward a BSBA in Accounting.

Grzegorz Niewinski, of Chicopee, working toward a Pre-Pharmacy.

Zhanaya Richardson, of Chicopee, working toward a BA in Psychology.

Cory Waring, of Chicopee, working toward a BA in Psychology.

Benjamin Whitten, of Chicopee, working toward a BSE in Biomedical Engineering.

Morgan Wojcik, of Chicopee, working toward a BSE in Industrial Engineering.

Kyle Wolanski, of Chicopee, working toward a BSE in Mechanical Engineering.

Mohammed Al Juboori, of Chicopee, working toward a BS in Pharmacy Studies.

Zainab Annasiry, of Chicopee, working toward a BA in Psychology.

Gehrig Burnett, of Chicopee, working toward a BS in Mathematical Sciences.

Breanna Lowery, of Chicopee, working toward a BA in Political Science.

Sebastian Manning, of Chicopee, working toward a BSE in Mechanical Engineering.

Connor McDowell, of Chicopee, working toward a BSBA in Arts & Entertainment Management.

Nicholas Messer, of Chicopee, working toward a BSE in Biomedical Engineering.

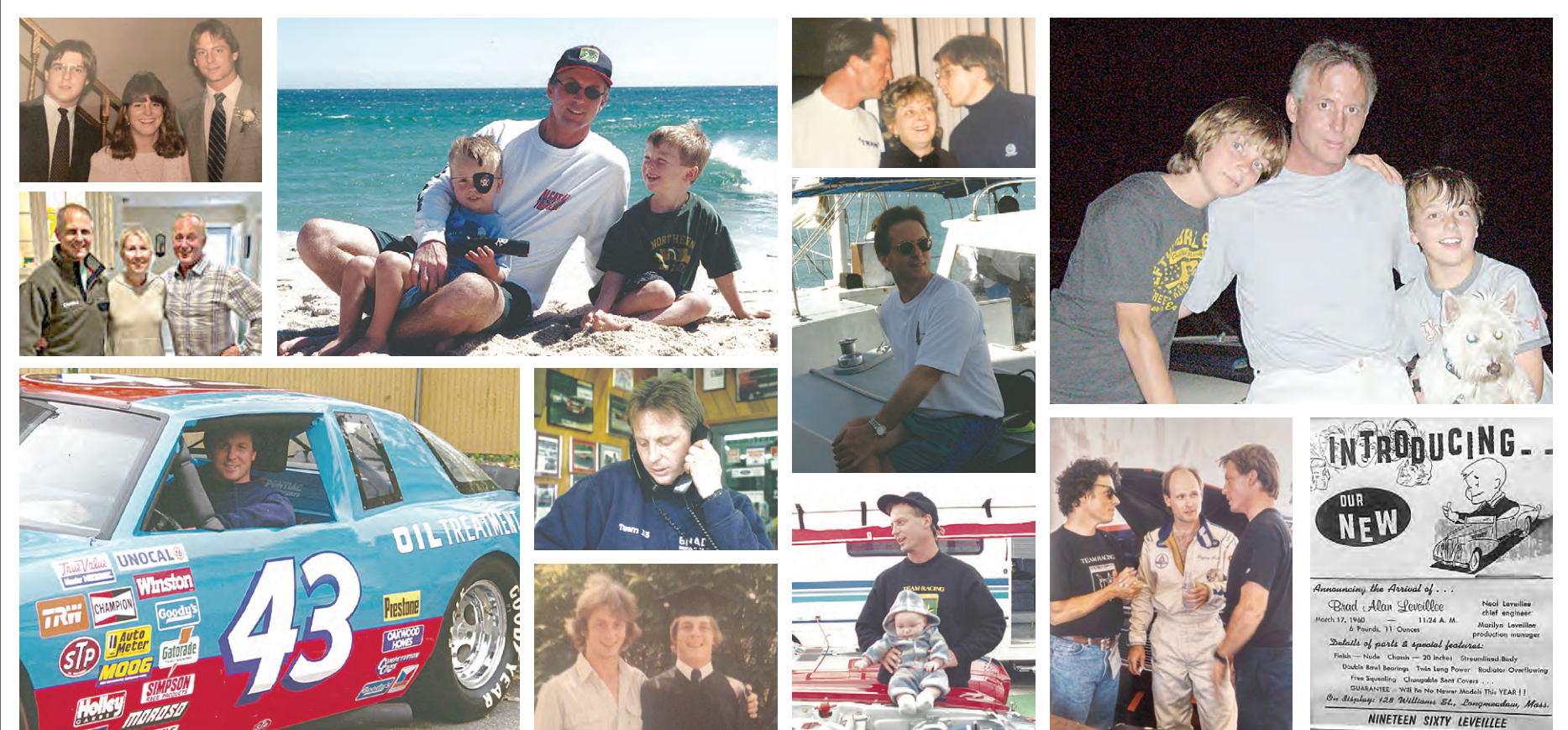
Julie Miner, of Chicopee, working toward a BS in Criminal Justice.

Tuan Nguyen, of Chicopee, working toward a BS in Computer Science.

Bailey Prendergast, of Chicopee, working toward a BS in Criminal Justice.

Emily Rockwal, of Chicopee, working toward a BSBA in Finance.

Dominic Romano, of Chicopee, working toward a BSBA in Accounting.



The family of Brad A. Leveille would like to send a heartfelt thank you to the Chicopee Police and Fire Department, The Polish National Credit Union, Team 33, and the countless loyal customers, acquaintances, and friends of Brad for honoring his memory with a very special final farewell...

We know anyone that met Brad, whether it was through work or pleasure, became an instant friend to him. He had a unique way of making people feel welcome and special. It would have made him very happy to know how loved and respected he was. We will be eternally grateful for the caring and support expressed to us during this time of sorrow and are thankful for the loving sense of community that was palpable.

We look forward to honoring Brad’s memory with a high school student vocational scholarship for both Longmeadow High School, Brad’s alma mater, and Chicopee High School, a town near and dear to Brad. Contributions can be made to Brad’s Service Vocational Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 372 East Longmeadow MA, 01028.

With Gratitude, The Family of Brad Leveille